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*Assembly
California Legislature*



TIM LESLIE
ASSEMBLYMAN, FOURTH DISTRICT
August 31, 2004

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The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I respectfully request that you veto AB 1486 (Dutra), which contains language preventing open shop contractors from working on jobs in school districts utilizing this new methodology.

Although it purports to ensure a "skilled labor force," the apprenticeship language in this measure is intended for nothing more than to prevent Merit Shop companies from freely bidding on state-funded construction work. The bill also judges the adequacy of apprenticeship programs by their graduation rates, an arbitrary standard that is premature in light of ongoing discussions with California Labor Secretary Victoria Bradshaw.

Under AB 1486, ten percent of the weighting for any bid for construction of a lease-leaseback project hinges on a contractors' having "an agreement" with a California Apprenticeship Council (CAC)-registered apprenticeship program. This measure is misleading in that its sole purpose is to disadvantage Merit Shop contractors in regions of the state where only union apprenticeship programs in certain crafts have been approved by the CAC.

This assault on open bidding for school construction will, in many instances, greatly limit the number of responsible and qualified companies able to competitively bid on this kind of work. In non-metropolitan areas where very few companies have collective bargaining agreements, union companies will have a ten percent advantage over Merit Shop firms. Clearly this is not a fair practice and should not be established as standard operating procedure for lease leaseback contracting.

On July 9th of this year, Victoria Bradshaw, Secretary of the State's Labor and Workforce Development Agency, called a meeting of Merit Shop apprenticeship-training representatives. She indicated she would be meeting with both union and non-union apprenticeship training representatives to establish workable and universal quality standards for apprenticeship programs.

Considering these ongoing discussions, AB 1486 is premature and is deserving of your veto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Leslie".

TIM LESLIE
Assemblyman, Fourth District

TL: kto